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OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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MOST SOUTH KOREAN LEADERS SUPPORT RHEE'S RELEASE OF PRISONERS

Most South Korean government officials support President Rhee's action releasing the prisoners, according to Ambassador Briggs in Pusan. Politicians of highly divergent views, including bitter opponents of the administration, have publicly applauded the president's action, expressing admiration for this "coup."

Briggs comments, however, that public opinion is by no means united, and several educated Koreans, in discussing the matter with embassy officials, have expressed grave concern over the consequences of Rhee's action. Even these individuals, however, are probably sympathetic to the release.

State Department review completed

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